

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a writing device including scanning optical components configured to write and form an image on a surface of an image bearing member;

a developing device configured to develop the image formed on the surface of the image bearing member;

an upper duct provided ~~on~~ above and a lower duct provided beneath a housing of the writing device to form an outside-air flowing path; and

a single air intake fan configured to take outside-air into the upper duct and the lower duct.

Claim 2 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an opening is provided to the lower duct such that the opening is covered by the housing.

Claim 3 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an open upper side of the housing is covered by a scanner frame of an original document reading device, and wherein the upper duct is provided in the scanner frame.

Claim 4 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein an opening is provided to the upper duct and is covered by the scanner frame.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a fan is provided to an air discharge outlet of at least one of the upper duct and the lower duct.

Claim 7 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein scanning optical components formed of a plastic are used in the writing device.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein outside-air that flows through at least one of the upper duct and the lower duct is used to cool components other than the writing device.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein outside-air that flows through at least one of the upper duct and the lower duct is used to remove ozone produced in the image forming apparatus.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
means for writing and forming an image on a surface of an image bearing member,
wherein said means for writing and forming an image includes scanning optical components;
means for developing the image formed on the surface of the image bearing member;
and
an upper duct provided above and a lower duct provided beneath a housing of the writing means to form an outside-air flowing path; and
means for taking outside-air into the upper duct and the lower duct.

Claim 11 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein an opening is provided to the lower duct such that the opening is covered by the housing.

Claim 12 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein an open upper side of the housing is covered by a scanner frame of an original document reading device, and wherein the upper duct is provided in the scanner frame.

Claim 13 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein an opening is provided to the upper duct, and the opening is covered by the scanner frame.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein a fan is provided to an air discharge outlet of at least one of the upper duct and the lower duct.

Claim 16 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein scanning optical components formed of a plastic are used in the writing means.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein outside-air that flows through at least one of the upper duct and the lower duct is used to cool components other than the writing means.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein outside-air that flows through at least one of the upper duct and the lower duct is used to remove ozone produced in the image forming apparatus.